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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ito et al.  
Serial No. : 09/451,666  
Filed : November 30, 1999  
Title : METHODS FOR PRODUCING BIOCHIPS (amended)

Art Unit : 1655  
Examiner : Betty J. Forman, Ph.D.

BOX AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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3-22-02

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Responsive to the final Office Action mailed January 2, 2002 (hereinafter "Office Action"), Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and consideration of the remarks set forth herein. The response is initially due April 2, 2002. Accordingly, this Response is timely filed.

The following documents are also enclosed herewith:

- Postcard
- Version with Marking to Show Changes Made

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.

March 12, 2002

Date of Deposit

Signature

*Jeanne Amour-Rice*

Jeanne Amour-Rice

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 21 has been canceled, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 24 to 27, 28 to 30 and 34 to 36 as follows:

24. (Amended) A method for producing a biochip comprising a plurality of spots comprising probes, the method comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing a binding agent, wherein the binding agent is capable of immobilizing a probe to the biochip, and a probe;
- (b) spotting the binding agent to a plurality of positions on the biochip; and
- (c) spotting a plurality of probes onto the positions spotted in step (b), wherein the binding agent and the plurality of probes are spotted with a pin or a tube and the binding agent is only provided on an area of the biochip where a probe is to be spotted, thereby producing a biochip comprising a plurality of spots comprising probes in which the binding agent is present only at the desired portions of the surface and is not present at portions where there is no probe.

25. (Amended) A method for producing a biochip comprising a plurality of spots comprising probes, the method comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing a mixture of a binding agent and a probe, wherein the binding agent is capable of immobilizing the probe to the biochip; and
- (b) spotting the mixture to a plurality of positions on the surface of the biochip, wherein the binding agent is only provided on an area of the biochip where a probe is to be spotted, thereby producing a biochip comprising a plurality of spots comprising probes in which the binding agent is present only at the desired portions of the surface and is not present at portions where there is no probe.

26. (Amended) A method for producing a biochip comprising a plate comprising a plurality of spots comprising probes, the method comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing a plate;